



FACT SHEET



INDUSTRIAL PARKS AT PORTSMOUTH

Office of Worker & Community Transition

Background

The Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (Portsmouth) was built in the 1950's to provide Uranium-235. A reduction in the Portsmouth work force began in 1991 due to the shutdown of the highly-enriched uranium operations, the completion of the nuclear safety upgrade, and the privatization of the facility as part of the newly-created United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC). By the end of 1999, Portsmouth will have experienced a 25 percent reduction in its work force, a loss of 500 employees. Portsmouth will continue to experience a steady decline in its work force until its operation closes in 2005.

The Path to Progress

Established in August 1995, the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI), the Portsmouth Site's Community Reuse Organization (CRO), is a not-for-profit community improvement corporation that promotes the reuse of Portsmouth's underutilized lands, buildings and facilities. The SODI also promotes further economic diversification, encourages area residents be self-sufficient rather than depend on a single federal facility, and assists with the implementation of economic development and diversification activities designed to create positive change and growth. As of September 1998, a total of \$5 million has been committed to the CRO and approximately \$1 million of the funds have already helped to create or retain 227 jobs, with an additional 600 jobs projected by the year 2001.

Community Success Stories

SODI requested assistance from the Department of Energy to develop two industrial parks that would further promote economic diversification and development. The development of Zahn's Corner and New Boston industrial parks have encouraged private corporations to relocate and create new job opportunities for Southern Ohio residents.



Mead Paper Company Grading
and Merchandising Facility



Visit us on the internet at:
www.wct.doe.gov

Jobs Created through Industrial Parks

- Mill's Pride LLC is constructing a 1,000,000 square foot distribution facility, representing a \$57 million private investment. Furthermore, they will create 150 full-time jobs within three years. There are 65 workers currently employed at this cabinet manufacturing facility.
- The Mead Paper Company began reusing the land and rail facilities at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in August 1998. As a result, Mead Paper Company has invested \$2 million into the project and created 15 full-time positions with plans to expand to an estimated 40 full-time employees.



Mill's Pride Warehouse at Zahn's Corner

Worker Training Programs

- SODI has provided the funding for Ohio State University to conduct a labor market study, that focuses on connecting employers and educational institutions, instituting long-term strategic planning, and implementing a process for certification of work force skill levels. The program will promote worker-training initiatives that will increase employer-based training and assist workers with building skills and encouraging career advancement.

Travel Improvements in Southeast Ohio

- SODI plans to conduct a study of the "US 23 Corridor" in cooperation with five counties and cities that will address transportation and economic issues. The transportation plan will identify improvements and adopt policies to improve and protect the highway. The economic development plan will identify the corridor's potential development opportunities and major assets.

Contact Information

For more information on this project or the Office of Worker and Community Transition, please contact:

Greg Simonton
Project Coordinator
Southern Ohio Diversification
1364 Shyville Road
Piketon, OH 45661
Phone: (740) 289-3654
Fax: (740) 289-4591

Office of Worker and Community Transition
US Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585
Phone: (202) 586-7550
Fax: (202) 586-8403
[http:// www.wct.doe.gov](http://www.wct.doe.gov)